



WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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Bob Dalrymple
USFS Wrangell District Ranger
PO Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929

Mr. Dalrymple,

The letter is written on behalf of the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA), a federally recognized Tribe, to comment in support of the proposed Stream Restoration Using Hand Tools project.

It is written in the WCA's mission that the Tribe will work to support the subsistence lifestyle, not just for WCA tribal members, but all Alaskans. The WCA is working to establish a Fisheries program to ensure the continued availability of natural resources in the Tribe's traditional area. Streams in our traditional area have been negatively impacted by development and there is a need to improve and restore functionality.

WCA has obtained funding from the BIA to create our Fisheries program, and initial discussions have taken place between the WCA, Wrangell Ranger District, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, and neighboring Tribes, for potential partnerships to help reach our goal of subsistence sustainability.

A partnership between the WCA and the Wrangell/Petersburg Ranger Districts could prove beneficial for all organizations involved, allowing our budgets to stretch further as we work towards similar goals. The Tribe sees great potential in establishing a mentoring program with the USFS, with WCA currently possessing the budget to provide the staff and USFS providing projects and supervision. WCA would benefit greatly through building invaluable capacity with in-the-field training from experienced staff in a variety of areas. All residents would benefit from improved stream performance in traditional areas.

The Tribe looks forward to continuing conversations on the Stream Restoration Using Hand Tools Project.

Thank you for your time,

Aaron Angerman
WCA Tribal Administrator